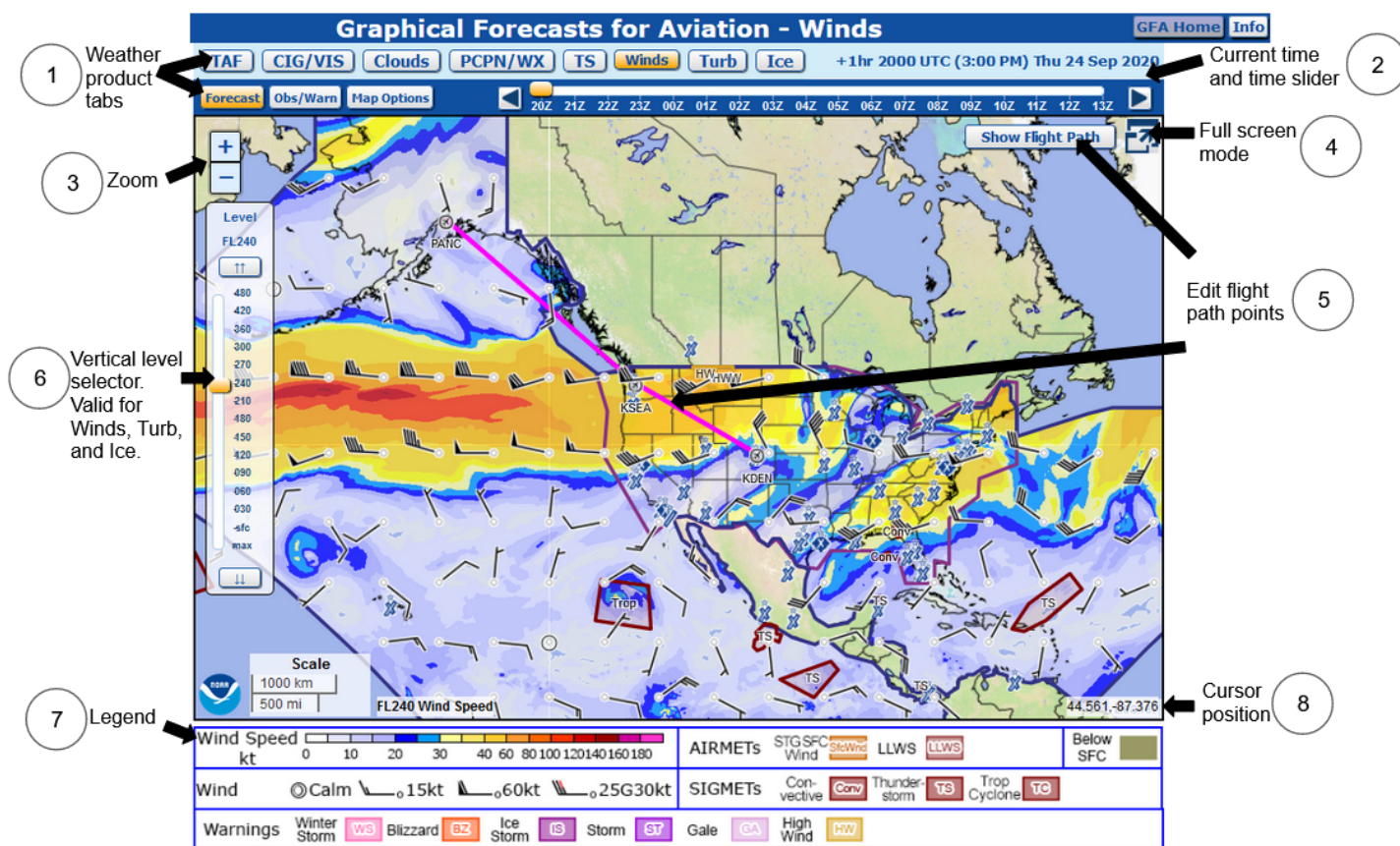# Graphical Forecasts for Aviation (GFA) Quick Guide
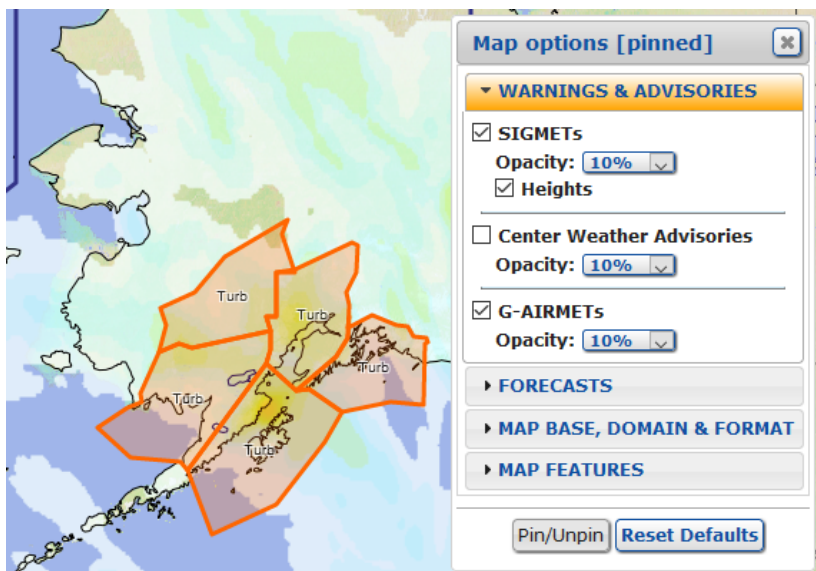
The **Graphical Forecasts for Aviation** (GFA) is a web interface designed to provide all the necessary weather information one needs to plan a flight. The experimental version of the GFA was recently expanded to include the Alaskan domain in addition to its already expansive coverage that includes the contiguous United States, and much of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. This Quick Guide will help get you started in navigating and utilizing the GFA to its full potential.

1. Decide if you are interested in looking at **Forecasts** or **Observations (Obs/Warn)** and select the corresponding tab. The weather product tabs listed above will change depending on which mode you select.

2. The **time slider** can be moved forward in time on the forecast tab and backwards for observations. The **current time** is displayed above.

3. **Zoom** in and out of the map by clicking the plus and minus or using the scroll wheel on your mouse.

4. This will toggle the map to **full screen**. To minimize the map, press escape on your keyboard or the minimize button in the top right corner.

5. Plot a flight route over the map by clicking the **Show Flight Path** button, type in your navigation points, and click go. A pink line will appear on the map, using any waypoints identified.

6. Change the **vertical level slider** on certain tabs to view products at a different flight level.

7. The **legends** for the products adjust to correspond with the information displayed on the map.

8. Find your **cursor position** on the map to help with navigation points.

Map Options - customize your settings by selecting the map options button to the right of the forecast and observation tabs.

- Each of the four dropdowns provide additional tools to customize your map view.

- Move the map options dialog box anywhere on your screen by clicking and dragging from the top panel, and pin it where you want with the pin button at the bottom.

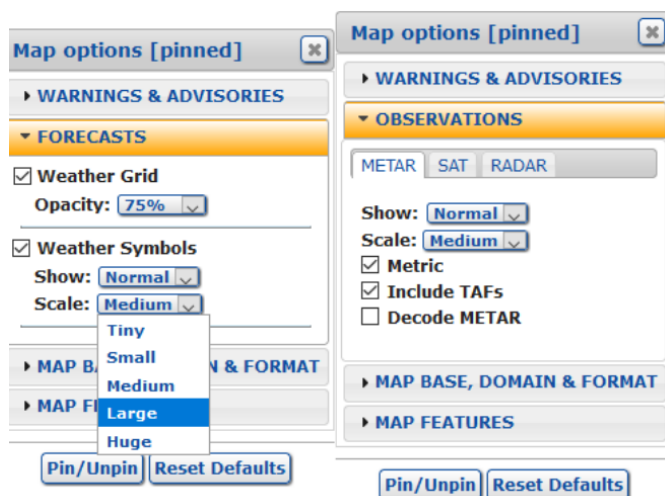- **Warnings & Advisories:** has checkboxes to add or modify SIGMETs, CWAs and AIRMETs.

Note: To view Alaska AIRMETs, check the G-AIRMETs box under this dropdown.

Forecasts:

Modify the forecast options by changing the **opacity** of the grid on the map, or change the **size and density** of the symbols.

The TAF tab options will also allow you to use metric values and decode the TAF.
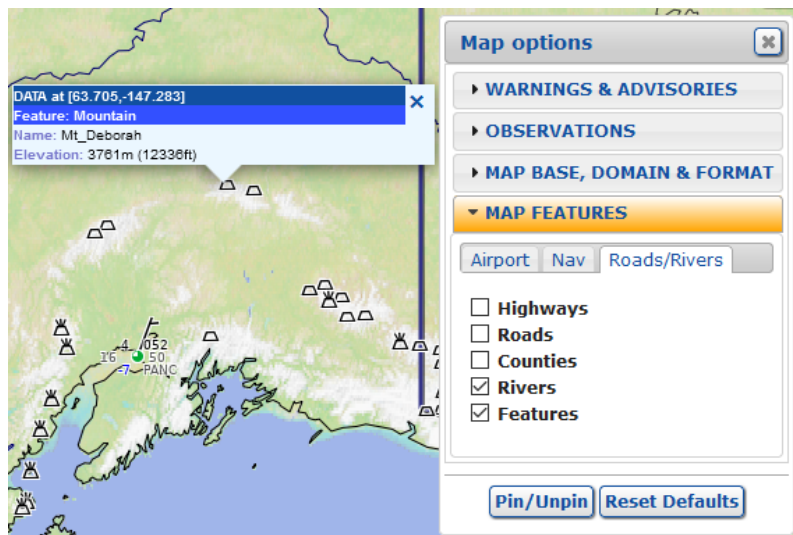

Observations:

Adjust the **size and density** of METARs and PIREPs, or choose to decode METAR and add TAFs to your view.

On the Satellite and Radar tabs, modify the **opacity** and type of product you want to view. Uncheck the *loop* box under radar to pause the radar loop.

Map Base, Domain & Format: Add **local time** to the time displayed on the top right, use the click on **hover** feature to scan over items displayed on the map, or turn on and off the G-AIRMET and GFA domain with the checkboxes. You can also change your **basemap** and **domain**.

Map Features: View locations of various airports, navigational aids, and additional features by checking the boxes next to your desired items. With the expansion of GFA over Alaska, we now include mountains and volcanoes. Zoom in to the map to view smaller features.

More Information: To view additional product and tutorial information, click on the **Info** button located in the upper right corner of the map display.